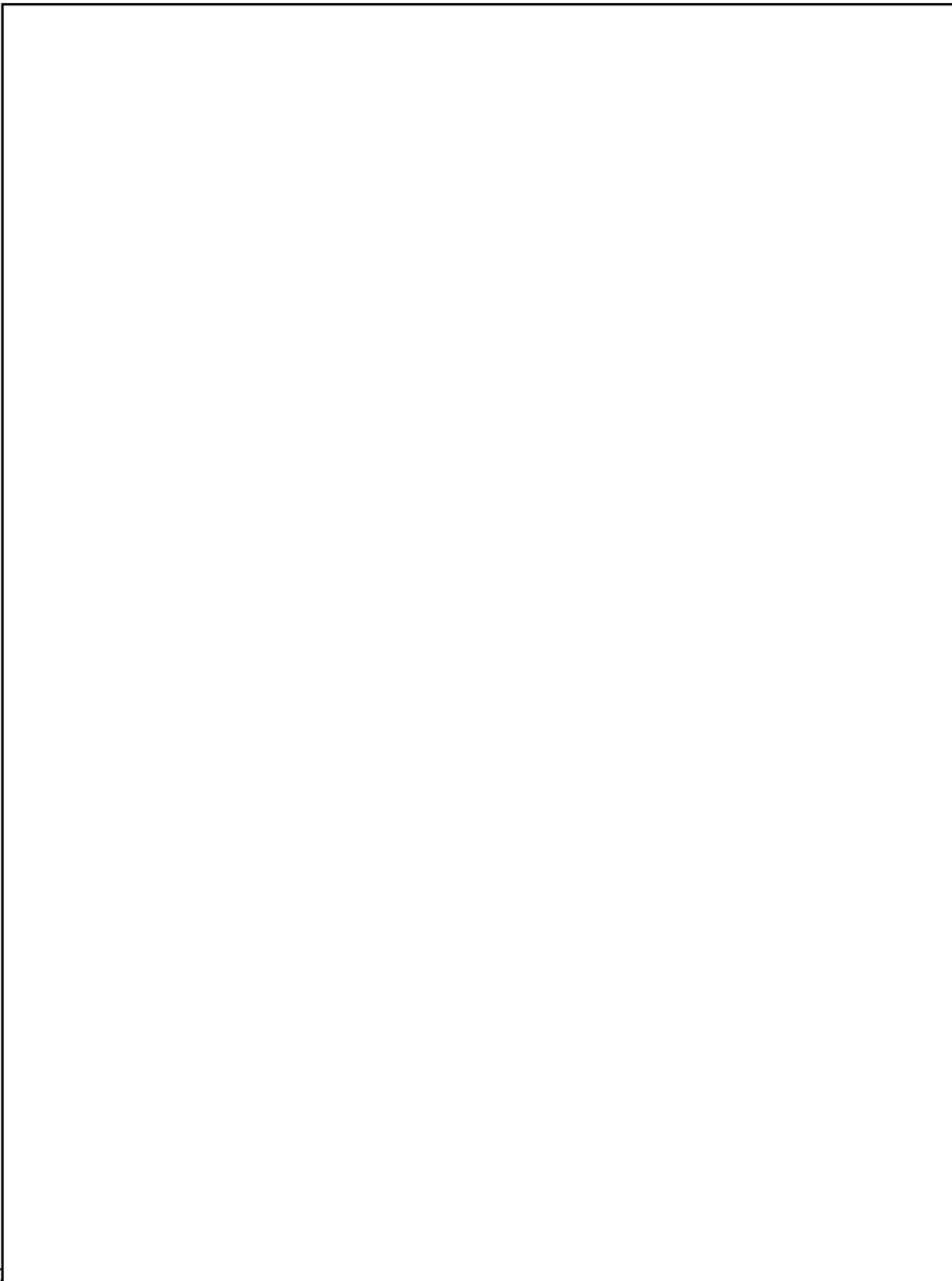


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State Department review completed

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OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL

SECRET

American Embassy,
Karachi, Pakistan,
September 20, 1956.

Dear Secretary Dulles:

Ever since General Iskander Mirza became Governor General of Pakistan in the fall of 1955, I have received hints from Pakistani sources and direct suggestions from Americans on my staff that considering General Mirza's stout adherence to a pro-free world and pro-U.S. foreign policy, he should be invited on an official visit to the United States. (General Mirza is the stoutest supporter of the United States in high office in Pakistan today and I am positive that no hints have been inspired by him. Last night, I learned from reliable sources that Prime Minister Suhrawardy would have refused to let his new Foreign Minister, Firoz Khan Noon, go to the "Users Conference" in London if Mirza hadn't insisted by phone to the Prime Minister in East Pakistan that the Prime Minister had agreed there would be no change in foreign policy.

Up to this time I have refused to even raise the question and have pointed out (a) that he should not be invited as Governor General with Pakistan about to become a Republic and a President elected, and (b) that Ghulam Mohammed, as Governor General, had visited the United States in 1952, and the Prime Minister had visited the States in 1954, so the time was not yet ripe to invite General Mirza.

/Now

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

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Now, however, I believe the time is ripe and if the invitation is not extended, the interests of the United States will suffer. The reasons for inviting him now are as follows:

(1) He became the first President of Pakistan in March 1956.

(2) The Shah of Iran and the President of Turkey have both been invited to the United States in the recent past but no top Pakistani has been invited since Pakistan joined SEATO or the Baghdad Pact.

(3) The neutralist President Soekarno of Indonesia has visited the United States and it is widely publicized that President Eisenhower's invitation to neutralist Nehru is open and the visit may occur after the November elections. If Nehru is invited to come to the United States, and even more so if he comes, and the President of Pakistan is not invited, the resulting detrimental effect on Pakistan public opinion as well as officials is crystal clear. Furthermore, if the invitation to visit the United States is extended to President Mirza in such a way that he or the Pakistan public draws the conclusion that the invitation is an afterthought and a sop to offset the invitation to Nehru, the resulting effect on Pakistani officials and public opinion will be very damaging, even if the visit should occur. Consequently, I consider it of great importance that the invitation should be extended to Mirza prior to any visit by Nehru and, if possible, prior to any further widespread publicity about the invitation going to Mr. Nehru.

(4) Finally, because of my personal relationship with my son-in-law, Humayun Mirza, the President's son, I know that Humayun does not expect to return to Pakistan until he has finished the two year course at Harvard Business School. Because his decision to go to Harvard Business School was a hard one for both him and his father, his parting request to his father was that his father visit him while he was in the States. I am positive there was no political feeling in this, but only personal feeling. The President replied that he would like to do so very much and would somehow manage to do it, but it was difficult for him as the head of a State to travel to other countries. This is all that Humayun has ever mentioned to me and it was said at the airport when I was saying goodbye to him. The President has never in any way touched upon the

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subject of a visit to the States directly or indirectly in conversations with me. Humayun, however, has an aunt in Canada, the wife of the Pakistan High Commissioner to Canada, and I feel certain that if the President does not come to the United States he will arrange to go to Canada instead to see his son. Therefore, I think it behooves the United States to be in time with its invitation rather than too late. At least an approach should be made to him soon even though the time suggested be put off as far as next spring.

I trust the suggestion contained herein will receive earnest, prompt and sympathetic consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Horace A. Hildreth

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